

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05  
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02  
OMB-01 DOE-15 HA-05 /132 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:MKROMHOUT  
APPROVED BY USOAS:IGTRAGEN  
USOAS:MYOHN  
ARA/ECP:SRGIBSON

-----088342 231923Z /45

R 231828Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 214168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, ETRD

SUBJECT: COMMODITY CONCERNS SURFACE IN OAS

1. SPECIAL MEETING OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL ON AUGUST 21, WHICH WAS CALLED PRIMARILY FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF TRANSITORY STATUS OF INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, WAS CONVERTED BY PERU AND A NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS INTO FORUM FOR EXPRESSION OF URGENT CONCERN OVER PERCEIVED THREAT OF RISING U.S. PROTECTIONISM. NUMBER OF NATIONS EXPRESSED RECOGNITION OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S GOOD WILL AND EFFORTS TO FIGHT THIS TREND, BUT THEY NEVERTHELESS RECORDED THEIR STRONG FEAR THAT PENDING U.S. LEGISLATION WILL FURTHER DAMAGE COMMODITY PRICES.

2. AFTER PERU'S PRESENTATION ON SUGAR AND COPPER SITUA-  
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TION, CHILE POINTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION'S RECENT RECOMMENDATION FOR GLOBAL COPPER IMPORT QUOTAS AS A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF ESCALATING PROTECTIONISM. JAMAICA CRITICIZED U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT AND PREDICTED THAT THE "TEMPORARY AND EMERGENCY" MEASURES ENACTED EARLY THIS YEAR TO PROTECT U.S. DOMESTIC SUGAR PRICE WOULD BECOME A PERMANENT FEATURE OF U.S. SUGAR

POLICY. OTHER COMMODITIES TOUCHED ON INCLUDED TIN, TEXTILES, STEEL AND MEAT. SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WERE LINKED TO U.S. TRADE POLICY.

3. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS ALSO EXPRESSED DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OVER U.S. RESPONSE TO RECENT REPRESENTATIONS MADE ON THESE ISSUES. THEY COMPLAINED THAT THEY ARE GIVEN A POLITE HEARING, BUT "NO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION" AND THAT THEY RECEIVE NO FEEDBACK AFTER DECISIONS ARE MADE BY U.S. IN PARTICULAR, JAMAICA CHARACTERIZED THE CONSULTATION PROCESS IN ALL FORUMS, INCLUDING THE OAS, AS AN "EXERCISE IN FUTILITY."

4. SESSION ENDED WITH DECISION THAT THE PERMANENT COUNCIL WILL KEEP THIS TOPIC UNDER CLOSE ATTENTION AND BE ALERT TO PROTECTIONIST TRENDS IN U.S. TRADE POLICY. IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT MATTER CAN BE RAISED IN PERMANENT COUNCIL AT ANY TIME SO WE EXPECT TO BE HEARING MORE WHEN REGULAR MEETINGS RESUME IN MID-SEPTEMBER. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMODITIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, PRICES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Drafter:** MKROMHOUT  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, PE, XM, XL, US, OAS  
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**Type:** TE  
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